

and troops engaged overseas, I am proud to introduce this amendment with Senators UDALL of New Mexico and BINGAMAN which addresses a dual front plaguing our country's war heroes. That dual front emerges from two troubles that exist for our veterans dealing with the horrors of war abroad and lack of affordable housing at home.

This sad duality has a dark and tragic reality. To date, one out of every three homeless men sleeping somewhere in our cities and communities is a veteran. Veterans make up a significant and disproportionate amount—over 20 percent—of our country's homeless population. The number of homeless Vietnam-era veterans is greater than the number of service persons who died during that war. Regrettably, this dark shadow cast behind our Nation's veterans is stretching because we are seeing homelessness spread to veterans returning from the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead of receiving the services and benefits they deserve, veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan—as well as many American families—are at greater risk of homelessness due to a number of factors, such as the economic downturn, the acute shortage of affordable housing, and lingering mental health illnesses. Further, despite the efforts of the federal government and its partners at the State and local levels and their progress in addressing homelessness, there remain too many gaps in our safety net system to prevent homelessness.

For our troops and their families to whom we owe so much, who make great contributions to defend our country, and who risk their lives; is homelessness an acceptable outcome for them? Clearly, the answer is no. That is why I am proud to support this amendment with my colleagues from New Mexico and I value the work I have been a part of with my other colleagues and friends like Senators MURRAY, MIKULSKI, REED, and HUTCHISON.

This amendment sends a clear and strong message that we cannot allow our veterans to return to their communities without providing them the support they need. This is why we introduced this amendment which combines the necessary support and housing services to help our veterans. Veterans need a comprehensive approach that begins with secure and stable housing in order to provide them the opportunity to reintegrate into society and support their families. Our amendment fully funds the Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and promotes the development of supportive housing and services with the goals of helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income and develop greater self-determination. In closing, I thank my colleagues from New Mexico and the managers of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill for their sup-

port. I sincerely believe that the passage of this amendment will be another example of our shining and unwavering commitment to our veterans.

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, in the last century, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke often of “the arc of the moral universe” and how it bends toward justice. He held an optimistic but unvarnished view of our country and saw that America's greatness lives in the promise of expanding equality and opportunity.

Sadly, for parts of our history, the halls of civil discourse were closed to people of color, women, and other groups. Too many Americans were denied the freedom that our founding documents guaranteed to every individual, and for far too long. But here in the United States, it is inevitable that justice wins out over tyranny in the end.

Thanks to the leadership of Dr. King and countless other trailblazers—of all races, backgrounds, and walks of life—today's America is more free, more fair, and more equal than our forefathers could possibly have dreamed. And today, I come to the floor in honor of one of these real-life trailblazers.

Twenty-five years ago, it was almost inconceivable that a person of color could become President of the United States. But that did not stop the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., from mounting a serious campaign. Some applauded the effort, and some decried it as foolishness. Some said that America was not ready. But Reverend Jackson was undeterred. He laid righteous claim to the values that define us as Americans, and he shared his vision with all those who would listen and some who would not. And under his leadership, an otherwise ordinary Presidential campaign became a movement. People across America were inspired by what they saw, what they heard, and what they read. They turned out in droves to campaign for Reverend Jackson, to hear him speak, and to offer their support.

Twenty-five years ago, Rev. Jesse Jackson decided to run for President. And his bold campaign changed American politics forever. As Dr. King would say, he and his supporters put their hands on the arc of the moral universe and caused it to bend just a bit further. He broke down barriers, he shattered prejudice, and he paved the way for all who came after. He left an indelible mark on the political and social landscape in this Nation and his contributions will be felt for many years to come.

In 2008, thanks to the leadership and vision of Jesse Jackson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and countless others, America did what was once unthinkable: we elected an African-American man named Barack Obama to the highest office in our land. It was a day I never thought I would be fortunate enough to

see. But it showed the world once again that this is a nation of high ideals and higher aspirations. It proved the enduring truth of the American dream and reinforced the true character of our great country.

This Nation owes a great deal to Reverend Jackson and many like him, who continue to share their talent, their vision, and their abiding faith with the American people. So today, 25 years after his historic run for President, I rise to thank Jesse Jackson for all that he has done and for all that he continues to do. And even as we honor his accomplishments, we know that we can look to the future with optimism, secure in the certain knowledge that we are in control of our destiny.

We, the American people, have the power to determine the course of this Nation, as Reverend Jackson reminded us a quarter of a century ago. That is the legacy to which he belongs—a legacy of equality and opportunity, which he has left to each of us.

Let us honor that legacy and carry it forward, so future generations can share in the ever-expanding promise of the American dream.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge one of our great success stories—the Congressional Awards—on the occasion of their 30th anniversary. This is a great milestone in the history of a program that has served to inspire and encourage countless young people across the country since it was first signed into law in 1979.

Thirty years ago, Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and Congressman James Howard of New Jersey joined forces to establish and promote the Congressional Awards and provide this great opportunity to young people all across the Nation. Today this program is achieving results throughout the United States far beyond what anyone could have ever expected. One by one, students are rolling up their sleeves and getting to work, establishing personal goals as well as goals for community service. Their dedication has made it possible for them to make a great difference in the world right where it should always start—in their own backyard.

The Congressional Awards program has deep Wyoming roots because Malcolm Wallop helped to provide the leadership that led to its creation. It has deep roots in Wyoming because it has inspired our young people to a truly remarkable degree. The popularity of this program extends from one corner of my home State to the other and it continues to spark the imagination and encourage the enthusiastic participation of another group of participants every year.

Because of the great work this program makes possible, I try to attend as many award ceremonies as I possibly

can. I enjoy having the opportunity to recognize the achievements of those who have earned these awards almost as much as the award winners enjoy receiving the recognition of the Congress for their efforts. Every time I take part in one of these special ceremonies, I can see the excitement and sense of satisfaction that the award represents to each recipient because they have earned it by accomplishing what they set out to do.

The Congressional Awards are open and available to young people from about age 14 to 23. They honor those who have done something to improve themselves by expanding their horizons as to what they believe is possible for them to achieve. Working with adult mentors, they dedicate themselves to achieving a set of goals in four areas—public service, personal development, physical fitness, and the exploration of the world around them. Because of their enthusiasm, it is no surprise that they have been able to achieve such great results in their lives.

There are three levels of awards offered by the program—Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Gold Award is the most difficult of the three to earn because it requires the most in terms of both time and effort.

Over the years, the number of Wyoming Congressional Award winners at each level has been impressive. However, because of the good example Malcolm Wallop worked so hard to provide, we have had a remarkable number of Gold Medal award winners in my State. That is a remarkable achievement for a State with a comparatively small population. It underscores the determination of Wyoming's young people to always finish what they set out to do.

That is why our award winners have been getting noticed and the word has been getting around about how much it means to each award winner to have earned such a special prize. That has inspired others to try to do the same and it has kept the line of program participants going strong.

Malcolm Wallop understood the importance of that message and the need for our young people to hear it—and hear it clearly. Thanks to him and his efforts, kids in Wyoming and throughout the nation understand that there is something better for them to do than to complain about what's wrong with the world. They now know that if there is a problem in the community or down the street you can do something about it. It's more than positive thinking; it's a call to action. It's a lesson learned that will then encourage our young people to apply the same determination that helped them to earn their Congressional Award to the other goals they have set for themselves so they can achieve the same kind of success in every area of their lives.

Although Malcolm accomplished a great deal during his three terms of service in the United States Senate, I have always believed the Congressional

Awards had to be one of his favorite achievements, something special that will continue to last as part of his Senate legacy that will serve to inspire present and future generations to continue to work to make great changes in the world around them.

That will mean, in the years to come, when we look to the young people of Wyoming, the West and the United States to take their place as our leaders on the local, State and national level, thanks in part to the experience of the Congressional Awards program, they will be ready.

KOREA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement. As you know, President Obama is in South Korea today and tomorrow meeting with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, and I would like to take this opportunity to communicate to the President and his administration the importance of expressing support for the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement during these meetings.

The United States and the Republic of Korea have a long history of trade. According to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. goods and services traded with Korea totaled \$101 billion in 2007. The Republic of Korea is the seventh-largest trading partner of the United States. In my home State of Georgia alone, goods and services exported to the Republic of Korea total more than \$390 million, making the Republic of Korea Georgia's 12th largest trading partner. Furthermore, trade with the Republic of Korea accounted for more than \$3 billion worth of goods passing through the Port of Savannah, GA.

It is imperative that the United States build on this already strong relationship with the Republic of Korea by approving a Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement. Approving a Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement will enhance both economies by growing markets for both U.S. and Korean goods and services, creating jobs in both countries, and will strengthen an already strong relationship with one of the most important allies of the United States in the East Asian region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a new KIA automobile production facility in West Point, GA. This is a direct investment from the Republic of Korea that is having a positive impact on my State's economy. This week, the first KIA Sorrento vehicles were completed at the West Point facility, where 1,200 jobs have already been created and an estimated 1,300 additional jobs will be created in the coming years. The impact on the local economy by the West Point facility is estimated to be around \$6.5 billion over the next 3 years, which is already having a transformative ef-

fect on a community that was facing very hard economic times before the KIA facility came along.

Mr. President, in closing, I would just like to emphasize how important the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement is to the United States, and in particular to my home State of Georgia. The KIA facility in West Point, GA, is just one example of the impact that this proposed free-trade agreement could have on other communities across the United States. During these difficult economic times, it is critical that the administration and Congress look for ways to build the economy and create jobs, and approving the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement would do just that.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES R. HOUSTON

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, Dr. James R. Houston of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will soon retire with over 38 years of service. He is a member of the Senior Executive Service, SES, and is the First Director of the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center, ERDC. His accomplishments and dedication to the Corps of Engineers' laboratory community and the Army are exceptional and will have a significant and long-lasting positive impact on this Nation.

After serving as a private in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dr. Houston began his Army civilian career as a physicist studying explosion-generated wave effects at the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, WES, in Vicksburg, MS. At WES he calculated harbor oscillations and devised a numerical model to determine the inundation limits of tsunamis in the Hawaiian Islands. In 1978, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida and in 1981 received an Army R&D Achievement Award for improved methods for numerically simulating tsunami propagation and interaction with nearshore regions. In 1983 he was promoted to chief of the research division in the Coastal Engineering Research Center where he researched numerical modeling of coastal processes and tsunami flood level predictions.

In 1986 he became the SES director of the Coastal Engineering Research Center, CERC, and with the combining of CERC and the Hydraulics Laboratory in 1997, he became the director of the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, CHL. In these assignments, he oversaw research programs in coastal and hydraulic engineering, oceanography, coastal geology, dredging, and numerical modeling of hydrodynamics and sediment transport. Under his leadership, CHL became the largest coastal and hydraulics engineering laboratory in the world.

In 2000 he became the first director of ERDC and in 2006 became dual-hatted